



## H.R.5137 – TO ENSURE THAT HUNTING REMAINS A PURPOSE OF THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5137 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV) on January 28, 2008. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on January 28, 2008, but was never considered.

H.R. 5137 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on March 4, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 5137 amends the first sentence of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460m-20), to read that the Secretary of the Interior "shall" permit hunting within the boundaries of the New River Gorge National River. Previously, the first sentence read that the Secretary "may" permit hunting.

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### BACKGROUND

The New River is a white water river located in southern West Virginia, and is among the oldest rivers in the world. The New River flows 53 miles northward through the ridges of the Alleghenies amidst a landscape which includes canyons and thick wilderness.

The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 was introduced by Senator Frank Church (D-ID). The legislation was passed by the 95<sup>th</sup> Congress, and was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter. The bill designated nearly 2 million acres in eight National Parks as wilderness, established eight new rivers as being part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and authorized \$725 million to renovate recreation facilities.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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